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Arbor Day Foundation Honors Mayor of Prospect ***Eberle Receives Champion of Trees Award***

FRANKFORT, Ky. (May 12, 2011) – The Arbor Day Foundation, the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to planting trees, recently honored Todd Eberle, Mayor of Prospect, during its annual awards banquet. Eberle was recognized with the Champion of Trees award for his efforts to promote urban and community forestry.

Eberle has done more work for his community's urban forest during his first term than many public officials do in a lifetime. Since his election in 2007, Eberle has initiated a systematic approach to the city's forestry program. He worked with the city council to develop tree-care ordinances, established the Prospect Forestation Board, required the city to maintain all public trees, and equipped his team with the latest arboricultural and urban forestry tools and techniques. By 2008, Prospect earned Tree City USA recognition for the first time, and has since received two Tree City USA Growth Awards for exceeding the program's standards. Prospect was also one of the first communities in Kentucky to implement a response plan to the invasive Emerald Ash Borer by using the latest computer software and recruiting an army of volunteers to assess the diversity of the city's trees.

The Arbor Day Foundation annually honors individuals, organizations and conservation groups that make a positive impact through tree-planting and environmental or nature education initiatives.

"When we honor tree planters for the work they do today, we are commemorating the benefits they are leaving for future generations," said John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation. "This group of Arbor Day Award winners is leaving a lasting legacy through the simple act of planting trees and caring for the Earth."

Eberle accepted his award at the annual Arbor Day Awards Ceremony on April 30 at Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City, Neb.

"The Kentucky Division of Forestry congratulates Mayor Eberle. We are very proud that the Arbor Day Foundation recognized his efforts to promote urban forestry in his community," said Leah MacSwords, director of the Kentucky Division of Forestry.

Since 1972, the Arbor Day Foundation has given Arbor Day Awards to honor America's foremost tree planters and conservationists. More information on the Foundation and its programs can be found at arborday.org.

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